

something they want changed, something they want improved, something that disagrees with the official line of the Communist Party.

She is in poor health, as indicated by the fact that when she was arrested, they had an ambulance outside. Actually, the ambulance was outside where the trial was held. She suffers from heart disease, hypertension, and hyperthyroidism, and her long time behind bars has made things worse. Staff at the detention center where she had been held reportedly instructed other inmates to urinate on her food, deny her hot water for showers, deny medical treatment, and threaten to beat her to death—because she was a human rights advocate.

In March of 2018, almost 4 years ago, Li went on a hunger strike to protest her mistreatment, which led detention center officials to force-feed her.

Like many others, Li Yuhuan had the courage to stand up for what is right, and she is mercilessly persecuted for doing so.

These various individuals and the way that they are treated are the kinds of abuses that will be going on at the same time as the Winter Olympic Games are held in China. Figure skaters fly across the ice, and while they do so, Li Yuhuan will continue to suffer in custody for standing up for human rights. Bobsledders will careen down the track at lightning-fast speeds; Chow Hang-tung will continue to be punished for trying to ensure his cultural history is remembered. As skiers race down the slalom slopes, Go Sherab Gyatso and Rinchen Kyi will still be locked up for sharing and defending their culture.

As athlete after athlete climbs the podium to have beautiful bronze, silver, and gold medals around their necks, Mahire Yakup and Mirzat Taher will go on languishing in prison cells for the crime of being born in the Uighur community.

That is the backdrop of this year's Beijing Olympic Games—human rights abuses, genocide, the destruction of freedom and democracy. And we cannot allow that to be ignored or overshadowed. We cannot allow for that to be forgotten in the glitz and glamour of Olympic Gold. We cannot let these names and these faces and countless, countless others who have faced the same be lost in the shadows of the flames of the Olympic torch.

The world must join together to say to the International Olympic Committee that never again can the perpetrators of human rights abuses be allowed to host a treasured event like the Olympic Games. Never again can the athletes of the world ask to be essentially conspirators in the glitz and glamour of covering up genocide.

And, for all of us, we need to remind the world throughout these games of what is going on in China. Do not let the Chinese Government succeed in having the world forget about their massive human rights violations—their

genocide, their torture, their elimination, their imprisonment, their complete crushing of the rights of people of Tibet and Hong Kong, the complete destruction of the right to speech and the right to religion within their country, the complete obliteration of the human spirit. We cannot allow all that to be forgotten during these Olympic Games.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINESE INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, before the holidays, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, USCC, released its 2021 Report to Congress. As is customary, the report reflects a bipartisan consensus, with unanimous support from the 11-member commission. It includes 32 recommendations to the Congress, each of which is worth serious consideration, especially in light of the announcement that Chinese President Xi Jinping will rule for at least another 5 years.

This is not the first time that I have spoken about China and the importance of increasing our Nation's competitiveness. I think we all recognize that it is an issue that impacts, directly or indirectly, the lives of every American. Today, I want to call attention to China's expansionist foreign policy, particularly one section of the USCC's report that discusses Chinese investments in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Chinese foreign policy has become increasingly bold, with goals that are both economic and political. China's economic goals are twofold: increasing access to raw materials while developing new markets for Chinese products. China has supported growth in parts of Latin America by financing mining, transportation, electric power generation, large scale agriculture, and other infrastructure projects.

However, there is a dark side to this increased investment and trade. Countries' reliance on commodity exports and China's control over supply chains strengthen China's influence in Latin American and Caribbean economies. With so much of these countries' economies dependent on continued trade and positive diplomatic relations with China, it is no wonder that we see some governments bypassing regulatory standards in order to obtain fur-

ther investment opportunities. This increased dependence can undermine democratic institutions, weaken environmental and social safeguards, and encourage corruption and violations of human rights. The Chinese Communist Party is promoting its own political agenda by supporting authoritarian regimes, promoting pro-China media, and strong-arming governments into isolating Taiwan.

The USCC makes five recommendations to counter these trends: first, respond to Chinese economic, diplomatic, and security initiatives by expanding U.S. funding mechanisms for infrastructure projects, the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and educational exchanges; second, increase support for governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to create foreign investment review processes and require the Department of State to report to Congress on progress; third, require the Director of National Intelligence, Department of State, and Department of Defense to submit an unclassified report detailing the implications of Chinese investment in port infrastructure, Chinese military presence at such ports, and the potential for leveraging such ports for Chinese military purposes in the future; fourth, require that all applications for U.S. foreign assistance include a disclosure of debt owed to Chinese entities; and finally, create a partnership between coastal Latin American countries and U.S. Government authorities identified in the Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act to increase maritime domain awareness and combat illegal Chinese fishing.

I urge the administration to consult with Congress on a path forward to implement each of these recommendations.

The Senate's fiscal year 2022 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill includes \$653.8 million for assistance for the countries of Central America, including \$100 million for localized development in the Northern Triangle. Additional funds are included for economic and security assistance for the Caribbean countries. We must support programs in these countries that prioritize the well-being of their citizens, protect their national sovereignty, and encourage fair trade and investment by supporting community policing, maritime security, energy independence, elementary and secondary education, anti-gang programs, employment opportunities, programs to improve government transparency and accountability, and by strengthening civil society. These are long-term investments, but they will provide the most effective alternatives to Chinese influence.

SOUTH SUDAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on January 6, 2022, I made a statement about the extreme hardships and insecurity that are a daily reality for the people